ADDING WEIGHT TO YOUR TESTIMONY #1 "Faith " 2 Peter 1:1 2 Peter 1:4&5

Intro: All of life is spent looking for self worth, by acquisition of things of value, money, or prosperity, position, power, fame, acclaim, influence, or some element that makes feel we have accomplished something. (Performance Perspective) Bible great emphasis on Faith. Here challenge to add weight (Value) to our testimony.

I. The Essence Of Faith.

A. Not a mental assent.

1. Delusion\ lip service defines.

a. ***James 2:14*** *14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?*

b. ***James 2:26*** *26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

2. Must move beyond surface.

a. ***James 2:17*** *17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

B. Taking God at His Word.

1. In contrast to circumstances.

a. ***Romans 4:19-20*** *19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,*

2. Hebrews 11/ Roll call of Faith.

a. History of people who believed God.

(1) ***Hebrews 11:6*** *6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

II. Precious Spiritual Commodity.

A. Precious.

1. Of Great Value.

a. ***2 Peter 1:1*** *1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:*

b. ***2 Peter 1:7*** *7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.*

2. Jesus Commentary/ Prophesy

a. ***Luke 18:8*** *8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"* ***(Actually Experiencing Faith)***

B. Focus/ Belief In Jesus Christ.

1. Not believe in a God (Indistinct)

a. ***1 John 5:13*** *13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

b. ***1 John 5:10-11*** *10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*

2. Unwavering Issue

a. ***John 14:9-10*** *9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

III. Eternal Value/Never Change

A. Precious Metals and Commerce

1. Gold 18 months ago 1900 ounce

a. Histeria/Collapse U.S. Dollar

1. Gold and silver/constant hype.

2. ***James 5:2-3*** *[2] Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. [3] Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.*

a. A time when intrinsic value disappear

B. Faith/Kingdom Value

1. Parables Spellout

a. ***Matthew 13:44*** *[44] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

b. ***Matthew 13:45-46*** *[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, [46] who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

2. Believers/Great Value/Gods Sight

a. ***Exodus 19:5*** *[5] Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.*

b. ***Psalm 135:4*** *[4] For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.*

c. Chris Evert Tennis Star. My value was the issue (Your worth based on Gods opinion)

3. Those who minister the gospel/treasure.

a. ***Matthew 13:52*** *[52] Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."*

b. ***2 Corinthians 4:7*** *[7] But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

c. ***Hebrews 11:26*** ***[26] esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.***

d. ***Colossians 2:2-3*** *[2] that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Conclusion: Story: acres of Diamonds, on very spot that the departed in research for the great treasure, Kimberly Diamond Mines/Priceless Fortune